

State of Michigan

City of Mackinac Island

City Hall, 7358 Market Street, P.O. Box 455, Mackinac Island, MI 49757-0455

October 10, 2017

Hon. Goeff Hansen, Chairman
and members of the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Binsfeld Office Building
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Hansen and Committee Members:

As Mayor of Mackinac Island, together with our City Council, I'm expressing our support for HB 4782 as amended by the House. The bill provides in Section 622(A)(7) that "An individual may operate an electric bicycle on any part of a highway that is open to a bicycle, including, but not limited to, a lane designated for the exclusive use of bicycles and the shoulder."

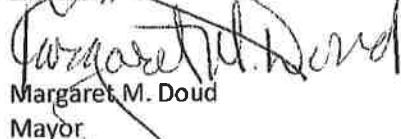
M-185 is the state highway that encircles Mackinac Island and includes the highly congested downtown Main Street. On a typical summer day, M-185 outside of downtown accommodates 3,000 to 5,000 bike riders. Downtown on a single day serves up to 15,000 bike riders, pedestrians, and horse drawn carriage riders. We believe the bill as introduced would have opened the flood gates to potentially hundreds, if not thousands, of power-driven vehicles, many operating at unsafe speeds. The result would be chaos and serious impairment of public safety.

We also are concerned that this situation would undermine Mackinac Island's special and unique 19th century character. Our city government has carefully considered this issue even before the introduction of this legislation and we do not want to lose the ambiance that has made Mackinac Island so special. Please note that the City presently permits electric devices for persons with documented handicaps.

We are very pleased that Rep. Hughes and the House heard our concerns and that the bill was amended to address those concerns. Accordingly, we support HB 4782 (Sub) as it is before you.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Margaret M. Doud
Mayor

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